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Common Access Card is here

By JO2 Jennifer Kempton
Periscope Staff

Capt. Walter Yourstone, Subase's commanding officer, and Cmdr. Howard Miller, Subase's executive officer, were among the first people at Kings Bay to receive the Department of Defense's latest innovation, the Common Access Card, Feb. 27 at the Personnel Support Detachment.

The CAC, which replaces the traditional military identification card, contains a microchip, two bar codes and a magnetic strip. The card stores personal information, such as the cardholder's name, gender, benefits, base privileges, blood type, pay category and organizational affiliation. In some locations, the card is also used for tracking deployment readiness, manifesting, medical and dental records and food service and to allow access to secure buildings.

"The card contains the same basic information, but each command can tailor it to their own needs," said Lt. Mike Altiser, officer in charge of PSD. "When we cut over to the Navy-Marine Corps Intranet, the card will be required to access e-mail. In some locations, the card will allow access to ships and bases."

Printed information on the white CAC card is kept to a minimum. All information meets or exceeds the protection requirements of privacy laws. The card will be issued to active duty military personnel, selected reservists, Department of Defense civilian employees and eligible contracted personnel. All others will continue to receive current identification cards.

Throughout the Department of Defense, the Navy is leading the way in CAC issuance. By the end of the fiscal year, the Navy estimates it will issue 1.34 million cards. At Kings Bay, the new card is currently being issued only as needed.



Capt. Walter Yourstone, Subase commanding officer, scans his fingerprint into the Common Access Card system as part of the issuance process. The fingerprint and other personal information are stored within the card's magnetic bars.

Photo by JO2 Jennifer Kempton

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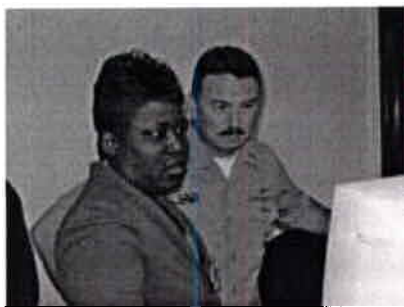
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"If someone loses their card or has a change in rank, they receive the new ID card when they come in to make that change," Altiser said. "In early summer, we will begin a mass issuance for Kings Bay and everyone will be scheduled to come in and replace their cards."



Tracy Thomas, an ID card clerk at Personnel Support Detachment Kings Bay, demonstrates the CAC's verification process for CMDCM (SS) John Bradley, Subbase command master chief.

Photo by JO2 Jennifer Kempton

The issuance process involves updating information, such as address and number of dependents, posing for a photo and scanning a fingerprint. Depending on security clearance and other pertinent information, codes are assigned to the card allowing necessary access privileges and the information is updated with DEERS. The entire process, from start to finish, averages 15 minutes.

"We've been timing the process since the machines were installed," said Altiser. "So far, it looks like it doesn't take much longer than the old process. It's important that customers come in with the necessary information, so we can make sure the process moves along quickly."

When replacing their current identification card, military and civilian employees should bring one picture ID, their government e-mail address and a six to eight digit number to use as a personal identification number. New DoD civilian employees and government contractors are required to show two picture IDs, their e-mail address, a six to eight digit PIN and a completed and signed DD 1172-2.

Personnel will receive notification via their command when they are to report to PSD for issuance of a CAC.

For more information on the Common Access Card, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.

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